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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, December 20, 2009

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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TWO HOUR DELAY FOR STATE OFFICES MONDAY MORNING

Gov. Jack Markell has announced that all state offices will open two hours late on Monday, Dec, 21. With some back roads still covered with snow and others freezing over Sunday night, the delay will give DelDOT road crews a chance to treat and plow some roads before state workers begin their morning commute.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency officials continue to remind the public that driving is still difficult in many areas. Most major thoroughfares are cleared, but many secondary and other back roads, as well as residential subdivisions, are not plowed. Clearing of many of these roads is scheduled to start Monday. Those attempting to travel in untreated areas run the risk of getting stuck in deep snow or sliding off the road into drifts.

By staying in place and safe, the public can avoid having to make emergency calls for disabled vehicles, and police and other responders will be free to respond to true emergencies.

Travel should be restricted to necessary trips on roads that are familiar and where conditions are known. Those who must travel should call ahead to their destination for updated road conditions before starting out. Although snow has stopped, driving may still be affected by blowing snow and some streets will be icy as temperatures remain near or below freezing. Those who must travel should have a cell phone and have an emergency supply kit in their vehicles that includes boots, flash lights, safety lights and reflectors, water and a blanket.

Winds and freezing temperatures can result in damage to exposed skin. Those who need to spend time outside are urged to keep face, ears and hands covered and to dress in layers and water proof boots.

The public is reminded to continue to monitor weather and road conditions and winter safety tips on local media, state web sites and DEMA Twitter, <http://twitter.com/DelawareEMA>.